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LETTER to JOSEPH C. WALKER, *Esq*; *M.R.I.A.*
&c. from the Right Honourable W. CONYNGHAM, *Treasurer*
to the Royal Irish Academy; being an APPENDIX to his
MEMOIRE on the THEATRE of SAGUNTUM.

DUBLIN, FEBRUARY 4th, 1790.

S I R,

SINCE I had the honour of laying before the Academy the Plans of the Theatre of Saguntum, I have seen that of the Theatre at Athens in the second volume of Mr. Stewart's Designs, and, as he has unsuccessfully attempted to ascertain the construction according to the rules of Vitruvius for Grecian Theatres, by inscribing three squares in a circle a tangent to whose diameter determines the front of the Scena, I beg to add to my former plans that of the Athenian Theatre, adapted to the principle of inscribing four triangles as represented in the plan of Saguntum; and so exactly does it correspond with the latter, as far as dependance may be had on the plan of Mr. Stewart, so remarkably coincident is the distribution and even measurement of every part,

part, that it might be supposed that the plan of the Theatre of Athens was adopted at Saguntum.

The relative measurements are as follow:

						Fet.	Inches.
Semi-diameter of the interior circle of the Theatre of Athens	-	-	-	-	-	35	—
of Saguntum	-	-	-	-	-	29	—
Extent of scena at Athens	-	-	-	-	-	117	1
at Saguntum	-	-	-	-	-	118	—
Return of Scena at Athens	-	-	-	-	-	25	1
at Saguntum	-	-	-	-	-	21	4
Upper portico including infide wall at Athens	-	-	-	-	-	13	6
at Saguntum	-	-	-	-	-	14	6
Width of benches of people at Athens	-	-	-	-	-	29	—
at Saguntum	-	-	-	-	-	23	3
Principal Precinctio at Athens	-	-	-	-	-	8	6
at Saguntum	-	-	-	-	-	8	6
Next division of benches at Athens	-	-	-	-	-	14	10
at Saguntum	-	-	-	-	-	14	9
Total semi-diameter at Athens	-	-	-	-	-	124	4
at Saguntum	-	-	-	-	-	122	7

SOME

SOME difference appears by a larger space being allotted to the benches of the people in the Theatre of Athens, and being constructed on a larger circle it makes a *scena recessior*, but by the three semi-circles inscribed on the scena at Saguntum this must have appeared considerably larger than that of the former.—The general disposition is however evidently the same, and appearing to be inconsistent with the rules laid down by Vitruvius for the construction and arrangement of the Greek theatres, it seems to be an argument in favour of those travellers who suppose this to be the theatre built by Herodes Atticus, and not the ancient theatre of Bacchus.

I have the honour to be,

S I R,

Your most obedient,

And very humble Servant,

WILL. CONYNGHAM.

Jos. C. Walker, Esq;